

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification of the above-identified application, as follows. In accordance with current amendment practice, changes are shown by underlining (for added matter) and strikethrough (for deleted matter), with the exception that double brackets are used to indicate deleted matter when strikethrough cannot be easily perceived.

Amend the paragraph beginning on line 1 and ending on line 9 of page 2 as follows:

In recent times, much of the Lost Wax Art has been substantially automated. In the patent application of Ludwig, et al, entitled Process and Apparatus for the Assembly of Wax Trees, Serial No. [[10/3-4,840]] 10/304,840, assigned to the same assignee, an advanced process and apparatus is taught for automating the fusion of wax gates of wax ~~pattens~~ patterns 5 to a wax runner. A heated blade is used to heat the pattern gates and the wax runner. The heated blade, the pattern gates and the wax runner are all operated by robotics. However, the fusion of wax pattern gates to a wax runner has been traditionally a manual operation performed by heating putty knives on a Bunsen Burner to melt the surface of the wax runner and the end of the pattern gate.

Amend the paragraph beginning on line 22 of page 3 and ending on line 1 of page 4 as follows:

As an alternative, in ~~placed~~ place of the grooved or concave surface, a ~~eries~~ series of raised conformal surfaces are located to heat only that portion of the wax runner where the pattern gate will be placed.